GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4702
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
CONSTRUCTION OF LIGHT HOUSE TOWER AT PURI
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the purchase orders for acquiring equipments for the lighthouse has been placed in June, 1993 even before the commencement/finalization of the contract for the construction of lighthouse tower at Puri;

(b) if so, whether the equipments costing Rs. 14.10 lakh was purchased in October 1995 and its warranty period was expired in January 1997;

(c) if so, the action taken against the errant officials;

(d) whether the lighthouse at Puri was declared unsafe in December 1991 and it is still functioning at the unsafe building even after a lapse of eight years; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken to get the lighthouse tower shifted to a safer place?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Supply order for procurement of Light equipment for Puri, Koddikarai and Daman were placed at the same time since the equipment was similar for all the three lighthouses. Although the warranty period of the equipment has expired in January, 1997, similar equipments are in operation at two lighthouses namely, Koddikarai and Daman and the equipments installed at Koddikarai and Daman are working satisfactorily. The performance of Puri equipment was also found satisfactory when tested for its performance on its receipt. The Department of Lighthouses & Lightships, is also having the expertise in running such types of equipments and therefore, does not envisage any difficulty in successful operation.

(c) No action is considered necessary in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) The Puri lighthouse tower is a 3 metre MS trestle installed on the roof of theCircuit House Puri,which was in safe condition at that time. However, when Public Works Department, Orissa (PWD Division, Puri) informed the Department of Lighthouses & Lightships that the roof of the building on which the light equipment is installed, has been declared unsafe and required to be demolished, there was no alternative for the Department but to remove the Light from the Circuit House roof. However, Public Works Department (PWD), Orissa have permitted the Department to continue the operation till a final decision of the demolition of the building is actually taken. In the meantime, PWD, Orissa did some strengthening work without demolishing the building.Therefore, the light equipment has not been shifted from its original place.

(e) The construction of Lighthouse Tower at new location is in advanced stage of completion and is likely to be operational by March, 2002.